

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L VATICAN 001555

SIPDIS

DEPT. FOR EUR/WE (VAN CLEVE); INR; DRL

FROM EMBASSY VATICAN/MESSAGE 46/00

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/19/11

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [PINS](#) [PROP](#) [SOCI](#) [PU](#) [VT](#)

SUBJECT: OPUS DEI TRIES TO CLARIFY RELATIONSHIP WITH

ACCUSED SPY

[1](#)1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY CDA JOSEPH MERANTE FOR REASONS 1.5 (A) AND (D) .

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VATICA 01555 201557Z

[1](#)2. (C) THE CHANCELLOR OF THE PRELATURE OF OPUS DEI, FATHER TOM BOHLIN, CALLED CHARGE ON MARCH 15 AND REQUESTED AN URGENT MEETING. CHARGE AND BOHLIN MET MORNING OF MARCH 16. BOHLIN SAID THAT OPUS DEI HAD CONDUCTED AN ACCOUNTING OF ALL FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY ACCUSED SPY ROBERT HANSSEN. HE CLAIMED THAT HANSSEN CONTRIBUTED \$4,000 THROUGH 1992, AND MADE NO CONTRIBUTIONS AFTER 1992.

[1](#)3. (C) ANSWERING QUESTION POSED BY CHARGE, BOHLIN SAID THAT HANSSEN WAS STILL A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF OPUS DEI. HE SAID THAT HANSSEN'S SPIRITUAL ADVISOR WOULD BE SPEAKING TO HIM TO GAUGE HIS INTENTIONS.

[1](#)4. (C) COMMENT: REQUEST FOR URGENT MEETING STRUCK POST AS UNUSUAL. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME OPUS DEI HAS OFFICIALLY ASKED FOR A MEETING. IT APPEARS THAT OPUS DEI IS ATTEMPTING TO PREEMPT ANY CHARGES THAT IT PROFITED FINANCIALLY FROM ALLEGED ACTIVITIES OF HANSSEN. MERANTE

CONFIDENTIAL

>

2001VATICA01555 - Classification: CONFIDENTIAL